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# MENTOR

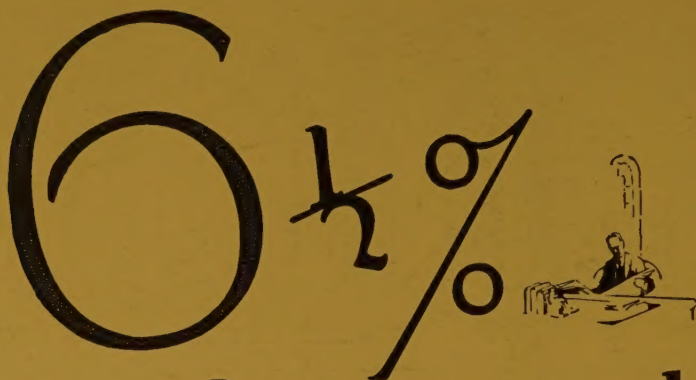
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THE MENTOR, published monthly, on the first of the month, by The Crowell Publishing Company at Springfield, Ohio, U. S. A. Subscription, \$4.00 a year in the United States and Canada; foreign postage, 50 cents extra. Single copies, 35 cents. Subscribers are notified that change of address must reach us five weeks in advance of the next day of issue. February, 1925, Serial No. 264. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Springfield, Ohio, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

# THE REAL CENTRAL AMERICA

BY THOMAS F. LEE

ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE AUTHOR



A GUATEMALAN INDIAN GIRL

*"SHE was walking from the well to the family hut, with the inevitable jar of water deftly balanced on her head. Her arms were swinging at her sides, her whole body the picture of lithe, graceful motion. Standing to one side, I focused my camera on the moving figure and called to her. As she stopped and turned, the right hand went up to balance the jar and the left to hold her poise. The result pictures the native grace of the Indian girl."*





#### A BANANA LEAF OF EXTRAORDINARY SIZE AND BEAUTY

The banana leaf has a thick stem from which tough strips of supporting fiber run to the edge, with delicate tissue in between. A slight wind soon whips these great leaves into shreds. This leaf was cut in the heart of a banana grove where the wind had never reached, and carried over a mile to the ranch house. The girl behind the leaf was cook and laundress of the ranch house





# THE MENTOR



Vol. 13 No. 1 ❖ FEBRUARY, 1925 ❖ Serial No. 264



THE VOLCANO OF ATITLAN, GUATEMALA

Lake Atitlan, a blue sheet of water hemmed in by a circle of volcanoes and mountains, rivals any spot in the famed Italian lake country



## THE REAL CENTRAL AMERICA

BY THOMAS F. LEE ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

EDITORIAL NOTE: The illustrations in this number, except those otherwise designated, are reproduced from photographs made by Mr. Lee in the course of years of travel in the Central American countries.

Central America lies quite outside the radius of popular knowledge, and yet it is a most important slice of the continent, sandwiched in between Mexico and the Canal Zone. It is close to the United States geographically, but, in so far as a general knowledge of its people and their countries is concerned, it is quite as remote as Tibet.

A few months ago a New York banker was discussing El Salvador.

"Now, let's see," he mused, "is Salvador on the *east* or *west* side of *South* America?"

I answered in surprise: "Great heavens, man! El Salvador is on the *south* side of *Central* America."

"Well, well!" he laughed, "one never knows where to look for these little 'monkey' republics."

He was talking of the most densely populated country on the Western Hemisphere and one of the most progressive nations of Latin America, yet to him it was an unlocated "monkey" republic.



## THE REAL CENTRAL AMERICA

Here are some of the simple facts concerning Latin America unknown to most of us:

Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, the principal port of Central America, is much closer to New York by water than is Galveston.

The sun *rises* on the *Pacific opening* of the Panama Canal and its last rays touch the *Atlantic entrance*. In other words, the "Big Ditch" runs from northwest to southeast, not from east to west, as popularly believed.

To most of us, Rio de Janeiro, on the east coast of South America, lies directly south of New York, whereas a line drawn south from the Statue of Liberty would run down through the waters of the Pacific, a little west of Valparaiso, Chile.

This same Valparaiso, several hundred miles farther south than Rio, is *closer* to New York.

Brazil is considerably larger than the United States.

Chile's Pacific coast line is as long as that of the United States and Mexico combined.

The Pacific Ocean is *south* of Central America—not *West*.

Central America is divided into five states: Guatemala, to the north-



Photo Ewing Galloway

NATIVE  
HUTS ❖

On the east coast of Central America are the "zambos," of mixed Negro and native Indian blood. These thatched wattle huts are typical of their dwelling places





WEAVING A  
RUSH MAT

Rush mats are used by the poorer classes throughout Central America. Since these classes comprise eighty per cent of the people, the rush *petate* performs an important economic function in the lives of the people. The tough leaves are moistened before they are woven by native workers

west, is about the size of New York; Honduras, next to the southeast, may be compared in size to Ohio; Nicaragua, next in order, has an area about equal to that of Alabama; Costa Rica, farthest to the south and east, is comparable to West Virginia; while Salvador, tucked away on the south coast, is about the size of New Jersey. The five countries have an area of some 173,000 square miles, sparsely settled with five million people, where forty million might live comfortably.

New York, Ohio, Alabama, West Virginia, and New Jersey—a considerable territory and approximately the size of Central America. One may gain a clear impression of the wealth and undeveloped character of these countries when it is known that natural resources of Central America greatly exceed the natural resources of the above-named states, and yet where Central America has but little more than 1,000 miles of railway, Ohio, New York, Alabama, West Virginia, and New Jersey have more than 35,000 miles.

Transportation facilities measure a country's development, so that these figures become impressive. Carrying the comparison a step further, all of Central America cannot show 1,000 miles of really good highway, whereas New York alone has more than 80,000 miles.

Roughly speaking, the topography of Central America is made up of a low coastal plain to the north and east, gently sloping to the foothills of the central mountains; a broken central plateau, ribbed with many rugged





ON THE ♣  
WAY TO THE  
SUGAR BOWL

The west coast of Guatemala boasts a narrow strip of land that ranks among the richest and most productive territories of the world. This picture was taken on one of the great Guatemala sugar plantations in this west coast belt. The cane is shown here, stacked up on cars, ready to be weighed and then converted into sugar

mountain ridges; and a comparatively narrow coastal plain along the edge of the mighty Pacific.

The coastal plain to the north is hot and humid. If the rain which falls every year did not flow off, soak into the earth, or evaporate, it would cover the earth to a *depth of ten feet*.

This north coast is "banana land"—habitat of *Musa Paradisiaca*—that ravenous plant which sucks its food through a network of roots in the soil and absorbs moisture and more food through its enormous leaves.

The north coast was a fever-stricken lowland up to the time that Gorgas learned how to eliminate the mosquito and conquer malaria and "yellow jack." In the old days the native from the plateau would quite as willingly risk a mild dose of poison as a trip from his highlands through the north coastal plain to the Caribbean. And yet, only a few centuries ago, this low-lying alluvial plain was densely populated by a highly civilized race, if the splendid temples, monoliths, and palaces, now and then reclaimed from a greedy jungle, may be accepted as evidence.

The Spaniards shunned the coastal plains of the north and built their cities on the high plateau for health, comfort, and security. The altitude gave a temperate climate, while the swampy lowlands and rugged slopes leading up to the tableland were an effective barrier against the free-



## THE REAL CENTRAL AMERICA

booter who sailed the Spanish Main and sacked the vulnerable cities of the coast.

To-day the great fruit companies have transformed this fringe of malarial swamp into productive banana farms—sanitary, comfortable, white man's land.

The central plateau, which extends like a rugged backbone from northwest to southeast through the whole of Central America, has an altitude of 3,000 to 12,000 feet. Down its western edge and paralleling the Pacific is a long file of superb volcanic cones—Santa Maria, Atitlan, Agua, Fuego, Izalco, San Salvador, San Miguel—more than a score of colossal safety valves leading up from the furnace underlying this land which is still in the making.

On this broad plateau the temperature ranges from that of a perfect June day of our own Mid-West to a frosty morning in November. Climate in Central America is a matter of altitude, not latitude. It varies from tropic to temperate, from bananas to wheat, just as the surface varies from coastal plain to high plateau. A mile in altitude has the same cooling effect upon climate that one would note in a 1,500-mile trip north from that point. At two miles the summer temperature would be similar to that found if one went suddenly from Central America to the borders of Canada.



OPENING \* \*  
GREEN COCONUTS

Coconuts grow in a cluster of five to ten. The green coconut is considered a delicacy by the natives. They cut off the end of the husk deep enough to make an opening in the tender shell and give access to the sweetish water within. The immature inner meat of the nut is scraped out with small paddles and eaten with great relish.





GUATEMALA MARKET WOMEN

Frequently trudge from three to six miles to the market place in Guatemala City, carrying a heavy load on their heads, something in either hand, and, oftentimes, a baby swung about the shoulders in a *rebosa*

The plateau section has two seasons—wet and dry. During the dry season practically no rain falls for six months. During *las aguas* (the waters) there is rain nearly every day. Most of the moisture-laden winds that sweep in from the Gulf over the north coastal plain strike the abrupt mountain side that leads up to the plateau, under atmospheric conditions that cause the moisture to condense and spill down the mountain slopes to feed the Motagua, Chamelecon, Ulua, San Juan, and other north-coast streams that carry the water back to the sea.

The climate of the Pacific coast is hot but dry. There is very little

humidity. This is readily understood when it is remembered that the prevailing winds are the “trades” and that they blow from the southeast. These Gulf winds drop part of their moisture over “banana land” and are robbed of the rest of it on the slopes leading up to the central plateau. The south coast, therefore, suffers a long dry season, while the north coast is lavishly watered.

To make amends for this, the central plateau absorbs vast quantities of water during the rainy season and then spills it down the abrupt Pacific slope in many tumbling streams that find their way to the ocean across this dry, narrow coastal strip. These streams provide irrigation facilities which in time will make this territory an important producer of sugar, bananas, cocoa, and coffee.

So much purely fanciful literary material has been fed to the American people concerning Central America that one approaches a chronicle of facts with a curious sense of necessity for apology. One seems to



## THE REAL CENTRAL AMERICA

be flouting tradition. The written accounts of these countries and their peoples have so long told of barefoot armies, opéra-bouffe revolution, mañana, earthquakes, and volcanoes that there is something approaching popular resentment when it is suggested that these representations might not make up a true picture.

To us, the people of the five Central American republics come under one classification. We think of them as having practically the same characteristics, customs, vices, and virtues. As a matter of fact, the only thing they really have in common is the Spanish language.

The Guatemalan differs as much from a Costa Rican as the American differs from the Englishman. The Salvadoreño is unlike the man from Honduras, and the Nicaraguense is unlike any of them.

These nations, in order of material progress and culture, might be classified as follows: Costa Rica, Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

In order of natural resources: Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and El Salvador.

In order of progress in self-government: Costa Rica, Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

In order of economic and financial soundness: Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

At this point we should divide these republics into two groups. We will speak first of Costa Rica and Salvador, and then of the three republics in which the Indian race predominates.

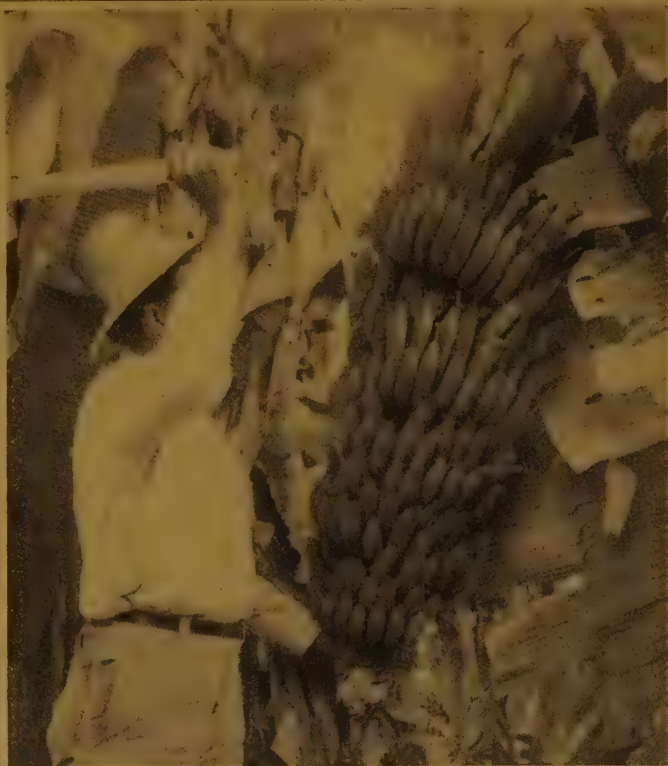
Costa Rica (the Rich Coast) was peopled by a fine type of Spanish pioneer. During four centuries the racial strain has been kept clean. The Costa Rican is a patrician. He has individual and national poise. He has no complex of racial inferiority. His fine courtesy is sincere and



THE MARKET WOMAN'S BABY

The mother was unaware of the photographer's presence, but the expression on the face of the lusty infant clearly registers his impression of a *gringo* and his camera





HARVESTING BANANAS

In harvesting the ripe fruit, the stalk of the tree itself is cut far enough below the bunch to permit it to swing down gently to the shoulders of the carrier. When the stem is severed from the tree the bunch is loaded on a waiting mule

not used as a mask. Kindness, fine manners, and a very real hospitality characterize the people of this republic. The qualities of industry and thrift brought from Spain have covered the uplands of his country with coffee *fincas* which produce some of the finest coffee grown. Coffee is the aristocrat of Costa Rican crops and the coffee planter is the aristocrat of the land. He is the real ruler and the government that the people enjoy is liberal and progressive.

Costa Rican women are beautiful—the men present a fine type of the transplanted Span-

iard. Most of the people of this country live in the spring-like climate of the uplands about their beautiful capital of San José. They produce coffee, sugar, and cattle; indulge in European and North American luxuries; seek their higher education in Europe and America, and make a spot in Central America where a fine culture is cherished. Their Atlantic lowlands they leave to the Yanqui, to the lowly banana and American efficiency.

El Salvador (from San Salvador—Holy Saviour—named by Alvarado to commemorate his victory over the Pipiles) is the next nation in point of culture and economic progress. Its European element came from northern Spain and brought with it an indomitable pioneering spirit to which has been added thrift and industry. All of these qualities were needed in Salvador, for this little country is a land of many mountains, little valleys, and long seasons when no rain falls. In natural resources, it is the poorest of this group and yet its people have put it in the front rank economically by sheer, determined, intelligent effort.

The people of Salvador differ from those of Costa Rica in that the population is now largely composed of *mestizos* (half-breeds), offspring of the





#### DESTINED FOR FRUIT-STANDS OF NORTHERN CLIMES

On steamer days the cutters are busy in the banana groves harvesting the bunches that have reached maturity and sending them out on muleback to the banana railway. This picture shows a very fully laden mule and a pyramid of bananas piled up to await the coming of the "pick-up" train





THE POTTERY VENDER

Goes on foot from his little village to the market three leagues away

union between European and Indian. Salvadoreños have inherited a certain brusqueness, mental alertness, and initiative from Spanish ancestors whose early environment in north Spain developed some of the qualities which now characterize our own people. He is polite and not inhospitable, but not overdemonstrative to the stranger. Salvador is an agricultural country, wherein the land is divided among a large percentage of her population. The feudal system of landholding has practically disappeared, leaving a prosperous country of many little farmers. An aggregate of nearly 100,000,000 pounds of coffee comes from many little *fincas*. Large quantities of sugar are produced, much corn and beans are grown—everyone works and produces something. An American farm expert is now teaching the small planter to raise cotton.

The country is covered with highways and



railways, telephones and telegraphs, and the money is sound. In consequence, there has been no political trouble to speak of in thirty years. It is difficult to awaken discontent in a prosperous people.

The capitals of Costa Rica and Salvador differ as do the people. About San José there is something of the poise and serenity that come with several centuries of well-being and progress in cultural things. In San Salvador one has a sense of energy, progress, and accomplishment that is typical of the real Salvadoreño.

This leaves three of the five republics which in some respects may be considered together. They are *mestizo* (mongrel) republics. The pure-blooded Spaniard generally is a newcomer. Those that came in the early days have long since merged with the Indian races which they subdued. In these three republics the race problem is para-



A BASKET WEAVER

Carrying to market the result of a month of painstaking hand-work



mount. Eighty to eighty-five per cent of the population is Indian or lower class Ladino (half-breed), far lower in the social scale than anything known to us. The remaining fifteen to twenty per cent comprises the *inteligencia*—those who think, who have some education and culture, who own the property, who govern, and who exploit the submerged mass. There indeed is material for political and economic problems.

Nicaragua was named for its greatest Indian tribe, the Nicaraos. The upper class of the country to-day is *mestizo*. Their country has for a century specialized in petty revolution. The people have been victims of a series of dictators. They have been exploited by their rulers and by foreign favorites. One would therefore expect to find a rather sullen and superstitious people. The Nicaraguan is poor. His country is practically without highways or railways. He is a vic-



AN INDIAN CARRIER

In the interior of Central America everything is transported on the backs of men



THIRTY MILES TO GO

This man carried a marimba, a sort of xylophone, thirty miles over country roads

tim of the pinch of poverty—and shows it.

Most of the upper class raise cattle on the great uncultivated tracts of hills and valleys, a small amount of coffee and some sugar are produced, corn is grown in a desultory way for local use, and along the Caribbean coast the American grows bananas. There are only a few miles of railway. The cities are of the old régime—Managua, Leon, Granada—and all are near the Pacific. Nicaragua broods over her fertile hills and productive valleys and waits for capital, good government, transportation, and education to turn poverty to wealth and national apathy into the activity that now characterizes her neighbor El Salvador.

Honduras for nearly a hundred years was the shuttlecock battered hither and yon by her neighbors. Her territory has been an incubator, hatching revolutions. Her people are frank beyond Latin custom. There





Publishers' Photo Service

## A GROUP OF YOUNG WOMEN OF SAN JOSÉ

Costa Rica has ever been noted for her beautiful women. In this country the Spanish stock has been preserved practically free of mixture with the native races

is no effort to hide real feelings beneath a veneer of pretense. They are too poor to be very happy or in any way spontaneous. The Honduran is poverty-ridden in the lap of plenty, for the country is rich in natural resources.

“Hondo” means “deep.” Honduras—depths—a succession of deep valleys and overhanging mountain ridges. Yet these valleys—Chamelecon, Ulua, Comayagua, the Olancho—are unbelievably rich, unfailingly productive, and the mountains are covered

with the greatest yellow-pine reserve in America. Copan tobacco is among the world's finest; sugar is produced in quantity in the lower Chamelecon. Millions of bunches of bananas go out from Puerto Cortez, Tela, La Ceiba, and Trujillo. Fine coffee is grown and cattle are raised everywhere. Paupers in the lap of plenty, they too wait on good government, capital, transportation, initiative—the magic keys to unlock their riches.

The Guatemalan is difficult. One must know him well to suspect what he really thinks, for he seldom reveals it in speech or action. Frankness to the Guatemalan is extreme subtlety, to be used only when one wishes to mystify completely an adversary. The upper-class Guatemalan is a thoroughly likable, genial fellow, be he planter or politician. Guatemala was the ancient capital of all this great country and the people have inherited the shreds of greatness. Probably the Guatemalan capital, the people, and the country itself are destined eventually to lead this quintet of nations in brilliance, culture, and wealth.

“Quauhtematlán” (literally “Place of the Wood Pile”—place of trees) is rich beyond the needs of her people. Enough coffee is grown each year to make 4,000,000,000 cups of finest brew. Sugar, corn, rice, and cotton grow under rare conditions of warmth, soil, and moisture. Millions of bunches of bananas go out over her excellent transcontinental railway and by ship from Puerto Barrios. The greatest lead reserve of the world is said to be there and



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a ridge of marble as fine and white as that of Carrara lies on a ridge above Zacapa Plain.

And now something of fundamental differences between the Latin American race and our own:

We are "collectivists" while they are "individualists" and each race has acquired its peculiar characteristics by reason of the environment in which it has developed. Our race goes back to the hardy tribes of north Europe, where inhospitable climate and barren soil encouraged industry, thrift, self-denial, and group action.

The Central American was born and reared in a land where food, clothing, and shelter might be had with little effort and without recourse to others of his kind. There was no need to band together in order to exist. The individual was self-sufficient. The Central American is many times a brilliant success in individual activity and a notable failure in efforts requiring collective action. This explains mediocre success or failure in administering government, developing natural resources, building railways, establishing great business enterprises. Such undertakings are beyond the means and ability of one man. They require joint action, so that he, being an individualist, fails in those things at which we excel. This is at the root of much mutual misunderstanding.

Our race-training has given us a material standard as an ideal, while in the Latin American it has developed an æsthetic ideal.

He may aspire to be a great writer, artist, jurist, orator, warrior, but never a great business man. With him the procuring of life's necessities and other material things is looked upon as an unworthy occupation, something that is to be passed on to some menial, the



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### A PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA INSPECTS HIS STAFF

Photograph taken in the barracks in San José, showing Federico Tinoco, former president of Costa Rica, inspecting his officers





CENTRAL AMERICAN  
OX CART. ❖

Types of ox carts vary from Guatemala to Costa Rica. Each community produces its distinctive type. This San Salvador cart is carried on solid wheels not unlike those used by the Trojan warriors

peon, the half-slave with whom the well-to-do have always been surrounded.

In Central America there are two castes—rich and poor, master and servant. There is no middle class.

The house of the better class is a one-story building with thick adobe walls, deep-set barred windows, and tiled roof, built about an open court or patio—the old Arab-Spanish style.

The patio is a delightful interior garden, usually filled with palms, orange trees, honeysuckles, and flowering shrubs, with a fountain in its center. The rooms open into this court, so that the family may gather in the open air and sunshine and still be within their home.

Even the houses of the rich are generally without plumbing or the other sanitary conveniences that we deem essential. Aside from the *pila* (the general water tank) there is no running water. The floors are of tile, the ceiling is of pressed tin or canvas stretched across beams and painted, the rooms uncarpeted and scantily furnished.

*Desayuno*, the early meal, consists of coffee and sweet bread. At eleven or twelve o'clock comes *almuerzo* (breakfast), the main meal, with eggs, rice, and red beans, or *frijoles*\* (black beans boiled until soft and then mashed and fried in lard), probably a meat course, fruit, and coffee. Dinner, which is the evening meal, may be quite elaborate, with sev-

\*Pronounced free-hole'-ays.



## THE REAL CENTRAL AMERICA

eral meat courses and vegetables. Wine is usually served, and coffee.

Contrary to general opinion, the diet of these people is not punctuated with chili or other spiced sauces. True, in the country, chili sauce is used by the poorer class to give zest to insipid food, just as our farmers of the Southwest use pickles for the same purpose.

The home of the Indian and Ladino—that is, the homes of about three quarters of the people—is a poor flimsy affair with but a single room. Slender poles at four corners hold up the roof-tree, which is thatched with palm leaves. The sides of the *jacal* are filled in with slender poles lashed together with vines. There are no windows and but one entrance. These huts are furnished with barest necessities. The fire for cooking is on the dirt floor, the smoke finding its way out through chinks in sides and roof. The palm thatching is surprisingly effective, turning sun and rain, while admitting air. It is also a convenient rendezvous for scorpions, tarantulas, small lizards, and insect life in general.

In the uplands, where the air is chill and individual initiative therefore somewhat keener, the lower-caste home builder daubs mud in the space between the rows of small poles, smooths the outer surface and frequently, with artistic impulse, paints the building a brilliant blue, pink, or yellow. This gives the exterior a finished air, but leaves the interior only a little different from the hut of more torrid lands.

The poor people live on corn and beans. In Guatemala alone probably



CLAY OVEN  
IN HONDURAS

A typical outdoor clay oven covered with a tile roof so that the heavy rains will not melt it and wash it away. This oven serves as a general cooking place for bread, meats, and fowls and marks an improvement over conditions where food is prepared on the floor of sleeping and living quarters





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#### FIRE PROTECTION IN COSTA RICA ☼

The cities of Central America are generally built of stone, brick, adobe, or other fire-proof material, so that destructive fires are seldom known, and protective service is simple. The municipality of San José, however, boasts a fire department with fine modern automobile trucks

a thousand tons of corn are eaten by the lower classes every day. The kernels are boiled in lye water to soften them and loosen the hull. The corn is then washed to remove hull and lye, after which the Indian housewife grinds it into a paste on a *metate*, or stone slab, using a stone *brazo* (rolling pin). The resulting mass is then patted into thin cakes, placed upon a piece of sheet iron over a charcoal fire and slowly cooked until about the consistency of a tough buckwheat cake. Nothing is added to the corn, not even salt.

A dozen such little loaves and a small dish of the ever-popular fried black bean cakes provide the average meal of the peon or Indian. Occasionally eggs, a roast armadillo or iguana, fried bananas, small pieces of pork cracklings, and rice are added to the diet, but corn and beans are the staples. The Indian shuns most varieties of fruit, believing them to be injurious. You ask him why and he will reply, "*Me hace daño*" ("to me it makes harm").

The upper classes dress much as do people of the same position in the United States. Most of their fabrics and all of their "ready-to-wear" clothing come from the United States, London, or Paris. In the cities the men almost invariably dress in black, and dark felt hats are much in vogue.

The high *sombrero* worn in Mexico is never seen in Central America. Panama hats are generally left to the Ladino. The woman of good class dresses in somber colors, and, in the older centers, she invariably wears a



## THE REAL CENTRAL AMERICA

black shawl, *rebosa*, or *mantilla* over the head in her visits to church.

The *caballero* is meticulous in the matter of dress. He carries a walking stick and may be expected to appear in proper attire at the proper time.

The Ladino of the city usually dresses in thin clothing, subject to much scrubbing at the public wash-house. The *mestizo* woman appears on Sundays or feast days garbed in elaborately ruffled wash dress, starched and ironed with painful care.

The low class in the hot country has little need for clothing. The man dresses in cotton pajamas, coarse straw hat, and sandals, while the woman will wear a white chemise, a cheap *enagua*, or skirt, and generally will be barefoot. In one village on the west coast neither men nor women wore clothing above the waist. The children of the hot country go without clothing during their early years—after which they are dressed like their parents.

In the uplands the chill climate makes clothing a question of some importance. The Indian is a shepherd, and the wool from his flock is carded, spun, and woven by the women of the tribe into soft, multicolored blankets and substantial cloth. The upland Indian is warmly dressed. He wears a hat and sandals, and invariably carries a blanket.

The upland Indian woman dresses in a richly embroidered blouse, while



Photo by Ewing Galloway

### BIG GAME IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The river men of Central America tell bloodcurdling stories of their encounters with the alligator. They tell of facing a giant reptile and, as he opens his well-equipped jaws, how they thrust a length of bamboo down his throat, thus rendering him harmless and easily captured. The story is a good one, but skilled alligator hunters prefer a high-powered rifle

## THE REAL CENTRAL AMERICA

the dress of the men in certain villages is Oriental in effect, with long, loose, sleeveless garments woven from wool, open at the side, longer in back than in front, and belted at the waist. Loose trousers of the same material reach the knees, showing the embroidered edge of white cotton drawers below. A black straw hat with bespangled velvet band is frequently worn over a gay-colored handkerchief banded about the head.

General health conditions in Central America are excellent. With the elimination of the mosquito made possible, malaria and yellow fever have been brought under control and the north coast of the country made habitable and healthful. The hookworm is still a scourge of the barefoot peon, but activities of the Rockefeller Foundation are lessening the inroads of this parasite. Smallpox is still epidemic in crowded towns and villages, and the food of the lowly classes—corn, beans, and lard—is conducive to certain forms of chronic illness. But in spite of this the Central American of both classes is usually a sturdy physical specimen.

Central Americans of means are educated abroad and but little provision has been made for educating the poor. Aside from a few parochial schools and schools maintained by foreign colonies, little has been done toward a general educational system, largely for lack of funds and organizing ability. For the most part training is given for very little else except professional and artistic pursuits.



A MARKET  
WOMAN ❀

She sits on a *petate* (rush mat) on the ground in the market place, surrounded by baskets of tomatoes and other products of her little farm





#### INDIAN NURSES IN GUATEMALA

Native nurses are faithful and devoted to their charges. The two little children shown here are representative of the well-born babies of Central America. They are grandchildren of Ex-President Herrera of Guatemala

The music and art of most of these countries is found with the Indian classes. The marimba, as a medium for expressing the music of the common people, is unique. Art developed to a high degree may be seen in the ancient monoliths of the Mayas and in the weaving, pottery, and basketry of the Indians of to-day. There is but little in the modern architecture which deserves mention, but in Antigua and in other centers of Spanish culture three to four centuries ago may be seen some remarkable specimens of Spanish and Moorish building.

People at play are self-revealing. The Latin American prefers physical contests in which he may sit as onlooker, enjoy such excitement as may develop, and wager a few pesos on the result. You will therefore find him a spectator in the bull ring, in the Fronton where *jai-alai* (hi-li) is played, at cock fight or horse race, more frequently than as a participant in football, golf, or tennis. He regards the American who exercises merely for the sake of exercise as mildly eccentric. The Latin American has never had opportunity to develop the sense of fair play that comes from competitive sports.

As to social diversions of the upper caste, there are frequent balls accompanied with much *aguardiente*—with weddings, baptisms, and other church ceremonies looming large in the lives of the poor people.

Central American customs differ from our own. The language lends itself



A COUNTRY ESTATE  
IN GUATEMALA ✦

The farm home of Señor Herrera, former president of Guatemala. The mild climate is ideal for the growing of alfalfa, sugar cane, and coffee. Orange trees are everywhere

to ornate expression. He uses many polite stock phrases well understood among his own kind, but which we take misunderstandingly. If one admires a book belonging to a well-bred Central American he will probably say: '*Es suyo*' ('It is yours'). We then assume that he is insincere when we find that he does not mean that we are to put it in our pocket and carry it off. The Central American seldom lowers the bars of formality even among close friends. Back-slapping familiarity is unknown to him.

On meeting a lady or an elderly person the Central American gentleman always passes on the outside of the walk nearest to the curb. The inside is also given to show respect to a person. The Indians and Ladinos walk on the outside, leaving the inside of the walk to their betters.

The Central American gentleman will do nothing that savors of manual labor. To do so would be to jeopardize his status as an aristocrat. No self-respecting Central American would be caught carrying a suitcase or any package, no matter how small, on the street. His carrier will follow, bearing the burdens. My progress through Central America was a struggle with upper-class friends who insisted upon dragging my cherished camera from me when on the trail and handing it over to a Quiche Indian.

One visits the Central American business man in his office by appointment. When it is desired to terminate the interview certain phrases are used which, to the initiated, mean "I am quite through now and this is to advise



## THE REAL CENTRAL AMERICA

you that it is time to leave," whereupon the other, understanding, arises, shakes hands with due formality, and is accompanied to the door, where further handshaking takes place and final good-bys are said.

To summon a carriage one waves the arm with palm downward.

The peon or Indian never pushes by one in a crowd without a murmured "*Con su permisu.*" One claps the hands in a hotel to summon waiter, chambermaid, or porter. Women in Central America, on horseback or muleback, use the side saddle. When American women first rode astride in the Latin countries they were frequently stoned. Courtesy is the keynote of home life. When visiting a ranch the guest will be urged to take the head of the table and will receive every formal attention.

Central America has its full quota of economic problems. There is a feudal land system, peonage which approaches slave labor, pack trains, Indian carriers and ox carts which make freight costs on necessities too high for the lower classes to pay, depreciated currency in at least one state, one-crop production, lack of communication and credit facilities.

The feudal land system took the land from the Indian and vested it in the Spanish Crown, from whence royal grants redistributed it in large tracts to favored holders. The results in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, and to a lesser degree in Salvador and Costa Rica, have been a minimum production, a retarded development, and semi-slavery for the mass of the people.

Peonage is a cunning system whereby the laborer is legally and indefinitely tied to his master by reason of pretended or real indebtedness. The ignorant



THE CANE  
HARVEST

Cane harvest begins in December when the plume-like bloom appears. The peon cuts, strips, and tops the stalk and tosses it into a windrow, to be loaded onto ox carts and hauled away to the mill

## THE REAL CENTRAL AMERICA

Indian eagerly accepts credit in the shape of small luxuries whereupon his doom is sealed. He can never earn enough to buy his release. Thereafter the conspiracy between planter and local official will hold him fast until death releases his obligation and passes it on to his son.

The Indian who is not caught in the peonage net will generally be found acting as a beast of burden, carrying freight over mountain or jungle trails at a cost which places necessities beyond the purchasing power of most of the people. Instead of producing, he adds to the burden of those who do produce.

All Central American countries, with the exception of Guatemala, have relatively stable currency systems. About thirty years ago her president, needing money and being an autocrat who did not understand finance, believed that he could take reserve from the banks without unbalancing the currency system itself. The peso, then worth fifty cents United States money, began to decrease in value. To-day it is worth less than two cents United States currency. Field workers receive as their daily wage from eight to ten pesos—fourteen to eighteen cents—and yet the name "peso,"



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### GROWING COFFEE IN COSTA RICA ❖

An excellent picture of the outdoor work on a coffee *beneficio*. On these cement floors, the wet coffee, fresh from the depulping vats, is spread out to dry. Coffee is raised in the uplands of Central America. The plantations are usually situated in a sheltered spot having a spring-like climate





#### IN THE HEART OF A BANANA PLANTATION

Note the great clusters hanging fifteen to twenty feet above the ground. The long pole, to which is fitted a broad-bladed knife, is used for cutting the stalk just below the bunch. The banana is a perennial plant that bears but once. It is perpetuated by sprouts



THE AMERICAN LEGATION, SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

and the eight bills that once represented four dollars gold, to these ignorant workmen still is associated with *mucho dinero* (much money). Guatemala planters tell one that the depreciated peso enables them to hire labor for a pittance and is therefore good for the country, since the bulk of the people are of the laboring type. The real result, however, is to all but extinguish the nation's buying capacity.

The Central American planter is a one-

crop farmer. Coffee is the favorite crop, with several hundred million pounds grown each year in the spring-like climate of the tableland. The one-crop farmer usually exists on borrowed money—he never quite plays even with the world. When crops fail he borrows more money. His labor force reflects the evils of the system through the poverty in which they exist. With soil, climate, and moisture for any and all food products, Central America is still largely a one-crop country—bananas and sugar in the lowlands, coffee in the uplands.

Most important of all is the cost of moving food from the place of its production to the person who will consume it. Primitive freight carriers affect the cost of living to such a degree that the item of transportation may be regarded as one of Central America's pressing economic problems.

Then there are credits. The Central American merchant in most cases is the banker for his community. He buys goods in Europe or America on long credit, hoping to be able to receive and distribute them by muleback to distant villages and plantations before he must pay his bill. Low-priced necessities become high-priced luxuries when to original cost is added all transportation charges, credit costs, and the profit of the importer.

Central America is a potential economic giant held down by the Lilliputian threads of ignorance, problems of race, economics, and government, but it is now putting forth the first efforts to snap these cords and rise to its true place in the group of Western peoples.



# CENTRAL AMERICA

## PEOPLES, POLITICS, AND DICTATORS



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### A FEAST DAY IN NICARAGUA

Festivals form an important part of Central American social life. Aside from general feast days, every day brings its group of individual celebrations, for nearly everyone is named for some saint, and all celebrate their patron saint's day. The above picture is that of a Good Friday celebration at the Franciscan church at Granada, Nicaragua



THE ANCIENT VILLAGE OF SAN ANTONIO DE AGUAS CALIENTES, ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

## CENTRAL AMERICA: PEOPLES AND POLITICS

**F**OUR hundred years ago, the Spaniards came into Mexico. Shortly thereafter Alvarado, one of Cortez' captains, with a little band of followers, cut his way south into Guatemala. He came upon these great centers of Mayan civilization and, with the same cunning that marked the conquest in Mexico, pitted one hostile tribe against another, conquered the Indians, destroyed as far as possible all evidence of their civilization, and reduced them to beasts of burden, a rôle which they have since filled in the economic life of Central America.

One hundred years ago, while Spain was so occupied with the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars that she, for the moment, dropped the leash that bound her American colonies to her, they declared their independence.

Here, then, was a small group of Europeans who had cast themselves off from the mother country, and a mass of Indians and half-breeds dominated by a small upper class. During the preceding three hundred years Spain had never permitted them to have voice in their own government or contact with other nations. They had no conception of representative self-government. Loosed from Spain's control, they reverted to primitive group relationships. The strong man in each "comunidad" ruled, and he who controlled local "caciques" (head men and "jefes" (chiefs) became supreme ruler. It was not a

system of government with the individual welfare in mind; it was despotic rule with fear as its principle. Government was handed down to the people from some higher source.

Certain of the "inteligencia" of these countries, in quest of a governmental plan that might serve them, saw the United States at peace and prospering under her Constitution. Whereupon, these new-born political entities adopted a "constitution" based upon that of the United States. But, aside from decorative value as apparent proof that here was a self-governed democratic people, these "bills of rights" might as well have been packed in moth balls and laid away in the general archives. They never have been of value or practical use.

We describe Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala as republics with a democratic form of government, when, in fact, their governments have been administered by a series of dictators, each holding in hand the three functions of government which we so carefully separate—viz., executive, judicial, and legislative—and each attempting by force or intimidation to extend his tenure of office beyond his legal term.

In practice, no election (as we know it) has ever taken place, nor can one be held until in the process of evolving self-government the people agree that they will be bound by the will of their majority, until



opportunity to express individual desires again presents itself.

Here is a formula used in Central America for the past century:

The constitutional provision that a president must be elected every four years; *plus* a lack of means whereby the people may voice their will; *plus* a desire of the "president" to remain in office; *equals* REVOLUTION.

Revolution is the only means left whereby an undesirable ruler may be replaced with the man of the people's choice. It is their form of "election," and it will continue to be used so long as the fiction of constitutional election exists or until they have grown sufficiently in the art of self-government to fit their constitution.

When a "president" seeks to remain in office beyond the "term" for which he was "elected" he betrays the first symptom of dictatorship. Since the basis of despotism is

fear, such dictatorship exerts a profound restraint upon the people. This is coupled with economic stagnation and discontent.

The people, under such conditions, resort to the only means they have for ridding themselves of such a ruler. Here is a picture of practically what transpires:

The dictator controls "army" and government funds. In desperation the thinking class selects some man whom they believe might represent them. Sometimes they are so overawed that they hesitate to take even that step. In that event some man who believes he might receive popular support, "*se levanta*," uprises, becomes the self-designated "nominee" for the "presidency," and with a few picked followers "takes to the hills." If he has properly gauged public sentiment the people will immediately turn to him, supply him with money and other support; the "army," with delicate appre-



AGUA VOLCANO, GUATEMALA

Agua is a perfect volcano, sloping up to a peak more than twelve thousand feet above the level of the Pacific. Antigua and Ciudad Vieja, ancient capitals of Guatemala, lie on the lower slopes of this famous mountain. In 1541, an earthquake released the lake in the crater, deluging and destroying the first capital



A GIANT BANANA PLANT, GUATEMALA

This banana plant is the "drone" of the banana family. In appearance it resembles the fruit-bearing species, but fruit never appears on this particular banana plant

ciation of the "way the wind blows," will desert the dictator; the revolution is successful and its leader "elected." The deposed dictator, if he be fortunate, will vanish over a neighboring frontier and probably live at ease thereafter in some foreign capital, on the "savings" of his "presidential term."

If the self-selected nominee does not meet with popular approval he will be quickly captured and executed by the man in power as a traitor to his country; or, if favored by fate, he will himself escape to one of those havens where political "juntas" of the "outs" meet to revile the "tyrants" who rule their "patria" and to issue stern "manifestos" in the name of "Libertad."

The newly elected president will serve his people until he in turn is bitten by the urge to power. He will then, little by little, develop the true dictator type until he in time is also replaced. A repetition of these incidents makes up Central American political history. This is only exaggerated enough to make it understandable. While it deals with but one phase of this phenomena, it provides the key to a general understanding. These people are in the process of evolving self-government. That they can do so has been demonstrated in Salvador, Costa Rica, and other Latin American countries. Time, bettered economic conditions, and educative work will bring about the solution.





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### THE LARGEST BANANA FIELD IN THE WORLD, COSTA RICA

Looking across one of the sluggish streams of the banana country upon a section of the largest banana field in the world. The little white houses in the foreground are the homes of the Jamaica Negroes, the labor force of the banana country



COUNTRY ROAD, SAN ANDRES, GUATEMALA





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### A BREADFRUIT TREE, COSTA RICA

The round fruit is not actually a loaf of bread, but it contains large seeds the meat of which is ground into a paste which is both nourishing and palatable. All over the tropics this paste is baked into a kind of bread—a really sustaining food



**RANCH HOUSE AT LAS VICTORIAS, GUATEMALA**

A cattle ranch usually means a rather desolate, uninviting place on a wide, stretching plain. In Central America the cattle ranch is in a tropic setting, often hemmed in by a grove of palms



**A PINE FOREST IN HONDURAS**

One of the great yellow-pine reserves on the continent is found in the low hills of Honduras. Millions of acres of yellow pine, rich in turpentine and resin, will become available as means of transportation push in and the demand for yellow pine exceeds the diminishing supply of the United States





#### TAKING STOCK ON A CATTLE RANCH, GUATEMALA

On our Western grazing lands one cow to ten acres is the rule. In Central America, where great areas of Brazilian jaragua and other fattening grasses have been planted, one acre will fatten the thin range steer and convert it into a fat beef animal



#### THE RANGE STEER OF CENTRAL AMERICA

The Spaniards brought cattle into Central America and but little new blood has been introduced since that time. The range steers of those countries, however, develop into a profitable beef animal, weighing as much as a thousand pounds when ready for market



GOVERNMENT PALACE, SAN SALVADOR



A PALATIAL HOME IN SAN SALVADOR

Most of the houses of the better class in Central America are spacious buildings arranged about an interior court or patio. This is the home of the president of El Salvador, Senor Quiñones





MARKET PLACE, TECPÁN, GUATEMALA

Four or five centuries ago, on this same site, was the capital of the ancient Quiche empire. The town of Tecpán is still purely Indian and is set in a rich and well-cultivated plain of Guatemala



OLD SPANISH CHURCH, ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

The Spanish built this church in Antigua, Guatemala, some three centuries ago and covered its front with intricate and beautiful carving that the camera barely reveals



### CENTRAL PARK AND CATHEDRAL, SAN SALVADOR

Looking through the park in the center of San Salvador, one faces the cathedral, with its massive doorway- impressive, though in some way out of proportion to the building itself



# LIFE IN PANAMA CANAL ZONE

BY STEPHEN BONSAI

Author of "The American Mediterranean," "Morocco as It Is," "The Real Condition of Cuba," etc.



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RESIDENTIAL STREET IN COLON, PANAMA

Colon is a nondescript sort of place: docks, railway yards, shops and shacks, Chinese lotteries and Spanish restaurants—and an "Astor House"—and a tropical setting that gives even the humblest living quarters a picturesque quality. The boundary of the Canal Zone runs through the city of Colon, and the American side of the line is called Christobal



Photo Ewing Galloway

#### STREET IN CHRISTOBAL, PANAMA, CANAL ZONE

The street at the back of the picture is in Colon, so the scene presents an odd situation in constitutional government: the eighteenth amendment holding sway up to the row of houses at the back, and the territory beyond that being "wet"

## LIFE IN PANAMA CANAL ZONE

BY STEPHEN BONSAI

**L**ATIN America rings with stories, and also a few legends, of how things are done in the Canal Zone—that unique territory where Americans enjoy many surprises, the greatest of which perhaps is seeing the sun, apparently, rise in the West and set in the East.

The main business of our pioneers who live in the zone is, of course, putting ships through the canal, but they perform many other curious and interesting functions. The governmental entity known as the Panama Canal Zone resulting from the Act of 1912 has, from the day of General Goethals, been vested in a succession of czars, none of whom have exercised their power tyrannically. Practically the governor of the zone is a law unto himself.

Here, in this little empire, all the usual functions of the national government, such as quarantine stations and regulations, customs inspection and postal service, steamship inspection, the lighthouse and the hydrographic offices, and even prohibition enforcement, are entirely separate from the

federal service, and are directed by the governor of the zone. In this instance, at least, the result of this departure from ancient custom has made for efficiency. Everyone that lives in the zone and everyone that passes through it is convinced that a directing head and a firm hand on the spot is worth the deliberations of half a dozen wisecracks in Washington. The isthmian strip, for which Uncle Sam paid nearly as much as Jefferson paid for Louisiana, is about 527 square miles in area, stretching for five miles on each side of the canal route. The civilian population is about twenty-five thousand, while the military garrison is generally about ten thousand. The form of government is paternal to a degree, and performs a score of functions which are usually left to the municipalities. The governor controls traffic in the terminal ports as well as the police and fire-fighting services. He operates and maintains the Panama Canal, the Panama Railway, and the Panama Steamship Company, and it can be said that the government



is an independent establishment directly under the President of the United States, but that, as a matter of executive arrangement, the Secretary of War represents the President in administrative matters.

The function of railroad president and fleet manager attached to the governorship of the zone is so unusual as to deserve more extended mention. The Trans-Isthmian Railway is sixty years old, and it invaded the seas with ships some twenty years ago to meet unfair freight oppression. Both the steamship line and the railway are now owned by Uncle Sam, and it is certainly an interesting experiment in government ownership that is here revealed. For nineteen years both the steamers and the trains have been operated by the government, with very considerable profits to the taxpayers and to the general satisfaction of those that use them. Many of the facilities, conveniences, and luxuries that the Canal Zone enjoys today, such as the cold-storage plants and the commodious living quarters, have been built out of the profits of these side lines of the great enterprise.

+ + +

To those of us who recall, who can never forget, the "fighting days" of the great adventure—when the isthmus thronged with men of every nationality and complexion, when the graveyards were filled and the

hospitals were gorged by the hundreds who daily fell by this, the greatest of the world's waysides—the impression of the tableau today is one of solitude and grandeur. The long-unsubdued powers of resistance have been overcome, the adverse forces of nature are in subjection, there are no crowds and no confusion, and but for the frequent blasts from the ships' whistles there would be no noise. The mass struggle is over. A ship, even a battleship, is put through the gigantic locks by a single man, and, as he is invisible, there is not as much man power in sight as is required to run a hotel elevator. Every operation of the gigantic mechanism, all these tremendous forces that move the greatest steamers as though they were toy boats, are directed by a man who sits unseen in the control house and touches a button every now and then. Perhaps he had never heard of the tens of thousands who wore out heart and soul, and died before the victory he enjoys was won. To-day the canal and the transit of it which baffled the world for four hundred years is the plaything of the pilot on the bridge who signals his readiness, and the control man who touches a button that moves a lever that puts the ship through a "cut" where mountains were carted away and rivers turned from their courses; and the same touch of the insignificant-looking button fills the locks with the tremendous volume of water necessary to float a battle-



Times Wide World

### U. S. NAVY PLANE-CARRYING SHIP GOING THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL

The U. S. S. *Langley*, the navy's only plane-carrying ship, sailing through Gaillard Cut in the Panama Canal

ship in less time than is needed to draw a bath in the higher reaches of a New York hotel.

Of course, every now and then something happens that gives the old-timers a familiar thrill and reveals the latent powers for wickedness that here are sleeping—tamed perhaps, but not entirely domesticated under the proud yoke of man's greatest modern achievement. These are the catastrophes of 1915-16, when the canal was blocked and seemed in danger of ruin, and also when the Cucuractha slide again showed its teeth and tried—but failed—to stop the passage of the great British battle cruiser "Renown" with the Prince of Wales on board.

One of the wonderful phases of Canal Zone life, particularly startling to the old-timer on a visit, is the increasing prospect that Uncle Sam, who was charged in the construction days by some penny-wise critics with throwing away his money "like a drunken sailor," may, in the end, draw dividends from his daring investment, when only

indirect dividends in national security and convenience were expected. If it were possible as a matter of bookkeeping—and I believe it is—to divide the cost of the canal, say \$400,000,000, and place one half of it to the account of national defense and security and the other half to commercial development and the other fostering of our export trade, these latter commercial aspects of the great achievement could be regarded as being upon a paying basis to-day. The revenue that is now collected is nearly, if not quite, double the operating cost and the canal has more than doubled its services in the last eight years; and it can carry four or five times its present traffic by the simple construction of additional and not very expensive water storage for use in the dry season. And when—but I should endeavor to put this optimistic prophecy in the words of one of the stalwart old-timers who worked gallantly in the dark days when all the millions and all the thousands of men seemed lost without compensation—"and when we



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A TOURING VESSEL IN SAN MIGUEL LOCKS, PANAMA CANAL





Photo Ewing Galloway

#### U. S. BATTLESHIP *MISSISSIPPI* IN GATUN LOCKS, PANAMA CANAL

This is the ill-fated ship that suffered a turret back-fire explosion in which forty-eight lives were lost

double track it" (he meant as to the locks, not as to the waterway), "why, then we can abolish the income tax and perhaps the customs duties, and the tariff too—maybe." It is to be noted that, in the vocabulary of those that live face to face with this achievement, the word "impossible" is missing.

One often wonders what Tom Cringle and his companions, seasoned in the Caribbean storms and hardships of one hundred years ago, would think of the maritime comforts and luxuries with which Panama contributes a lion's share to carrying on the world's business. The coaling plants have a storage capacity of 700,000 tons, and they bunker ships at anywhere from a hundred to five hundred tons an hour, according to the construction of the ship. From thirty huge tanks, with a storage capacity of more than a million and a half barrels, oil burners can be refueled as fast as they can take the greasy stream. Also crude oil and Diesel oil, as well as gasoline, is available in any desired quantities at the world market prices, and

there is a thousand-foot dry dock capable of receiving the largest ships built, and smaller docks, and floating cranes, and wonderful marine shops, manned by eleven hundred skilled workmen, ready and willing to make promptly and skilfully all kinds of marine repairs.

Perhaps the greatest benefaction of the Panama achievement, and one little mentioned and yet gratefully recalled by those who have to go down to the sea in ships, is the salvage service. It operates from either end of the canal with a normal radius of a thousand miles, and farther when the necessity arises. Here are stationed sea-going tugs with fires up, with up-to-date wrecking equipment, awaiting the distress signal that comes not infrequently from the hurricane-swept seas.

Another of the unforeseen advantages of the canal is in the hydrographic office at Balboa which, in conjunction with the U. S. Weather Bureau, maintains a signal service in the Caribbean that receives and sends out advisory notices and warnings, and is gen-



Photo Ewing Galloway

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#### PANAMA CITY, SHOWING THE IMPROVED WATER FRONT

erally most successful in detecting approaching hurricanes and determining their paths. With these frequent and reliable notices broadcast by radio, it is possible for ships to avoid the worst of the atmospheric disturbances, so long a terror to these seas.

Our pioneers of progress dwelling in the zone are as far from the sufferings of twenty years ago as are the inhabitants of Virginia from the "starving year" under Captain John Smith. Baseball, which they cultivate intensively in the diamond and not merely on the bleachers, has fascinated many votaries, and the boys of the zone have the greatest difficulty in retaining the prestige of championship from their friendly neighbors and increasingly formidable rivals. The swimming parties to the islands and to the shore have produced many remarkable swimmers, perhaps because here ice never holds sway, and last year a daughter of the zone made a diving record at the Paris meet of the Olympic games. Life here, as at home, is simplified, or complicated, by the radio; while the old-timers who treasure their service medals of the mud-larking days with

their family Bibles—as well they might—roll around on macadamized roads in up-to-date taxicabs.

With the government and the people of the surrounding Republic of Panama an era of good feeling, based upon longer acquaintance and better understanding, has dawned, and this happy change from the conditions that obtained not so long ago was made quite clear in the recent inauguration of a new president of Panama. To witness the transmission of powers and to be present at the reception that followed it, all the Americans were invited, and all who could be spared from their exacting duties went.

There is a special field of usefulness which the zone occupies in a quiet but most effective way. To Latin America, or to most of it, the zone is the most accessible and get-at-able section of our land, and, as it is a perfect miniature of American life and activities, it can be, at least, most conveniently studied. Hardly a week passes without the arrival of a delegation: medical men to view the hospitals, or Boy Scouts on a "rodeo" bent. Committees come from the venerable San



Marcos University in Lima to check up on some educational innovation, and architects from far-away Paraguay to examine the construction of our model schools. Traders and buyers come in droves, and, as you can buy what you want on the isthmus almost, if not quite, as well as you can in the more populous markets of the North, many tarry here where their language is understood by all and make the purchases which, when taken in the aggregate, spell prosperity to many an industrial center with us and an advance in the cultural equipment in the localities from which the buyers come. Second only to the transit of merchant ships, greater in value than the oft-sung silver-laden galleons of yore, is the passage of ideas and the exchange of thought made possible and direct by the great "ditch." The "cut" that separated the land has brought together the two great races that have peopled America, not in slavish imitation but in beneficial coöperation.

One of the few new departures in policy noticeable in the zone is the fact that now private individuals and traders are permitted

to acquire land. This change promises to increase the population of the zone very rapidly. Unemployed laborers and others are permitted to take up land for agricultural purposes, and more than six hundred and fifty families are now established on their little tropical farms. Many of these pioneers seem to have achieved economic independence, and it is thought that this increase in the available labor supply may prove of considerable importance in some future emergency.

Governor J. J. Morrow is retiring, after many years of service, and he is to be succeeded by Colonel M. L. Walker, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, long the governor's first lieutenant and understudy, who has also acted as engineer of maintenance for the last three years. The care with which selective promotions, such as this, are made accounts for the smoothness with which the gigantic Canal Zone machine functions.

The Canal Zone and the fine people who live in it have demonstrated many things. It is certain that their work is a marvel of efficiency.



© Ewing Galloway

A CLEAN, MODERN STREET IN PANAMA CITY



# AN OBJECT LESSON IN CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

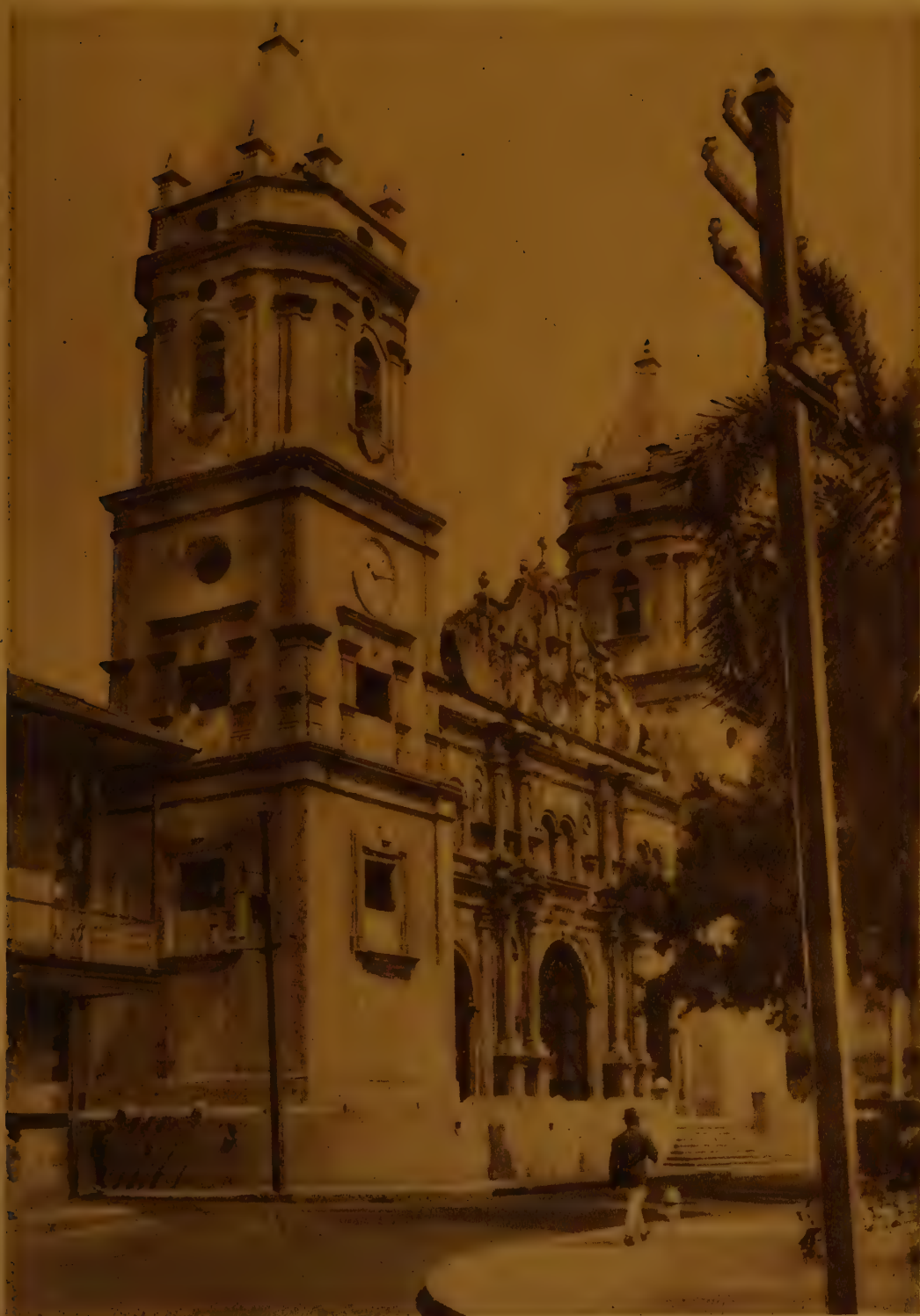
A street in Panama City as it was when the Americans took possession



# BEFORE AND AFTER

A picture of the same street as it is to-day—cleaned and rebuilt





© K. V. Co.

### THE OLD CATHEDRAL AT PANAMA

One of the oldest and most beautiful buildings in Panama City. It has been standing for about three hundred years



Courtesy General Morrow, Governor C. Z.

PANAMA CANAL CLUBHOUSE, BALBOA, CANAL ZONE



Courtesy General Morrow, Governor C. Z.

PUBLIC SCHOOLHOUSE, BALBOA, CANAL ZONE





Courtesy General Morrow, Governor C. Z.

#### FOURTH OF JULY PATRIOTIC EXERCISES, BALBOA, CANAL ZONE



Photo Ewing Galloway

#### UNCLE SAM AS LANDLORD

The Balboa Hotel, Canal Zone, is owned and operated by the United States Government



© U. S. U.

#### TAKING THE MORNING AIR

An American soldier gives two little native Panama children an outing





## THE MAYA

THE GREEKS OF  
THE NEW WORLD

BY SYLVANUS GRISWOLD MORLEY  
CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON

About two thousand years ago, whilst yet our own ancestors of northwestern Europe were living in a state of utmost barbarism, before the light of Roman culture had illuminated those then uncouth and backward regions, there was slowly flowering in the New World the most brilliant civilization of ancient America—namely, the Maya of southern Mexico and northern Guatemala.

Midway between the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and the Isthmus of Panama, on the continental bridge, so to speak, joining North and South America, we find this highly gifted race shortly before the birth of Christ in what is now the northern part of the Republic of Guatemala,

comprising the Department of Peten.

Here cities were slowly coming into being; the great primeval forest which originally had covered the whole region was gradually being felled, the country was painstakingly being occupied and put under cultivation, until it became, during the first five centuries of the Christian Era, one of the most densely populated areas on the face of this planet.

The oldest dated object in the Maya hieroglyphic writing is a small jadeite figure,

known as the Tuxtla Statuette, now in our own National Museum at Washington. This little figure is only seven inches in height and is carved in the likeness of a bird-man—that is, with the head of a man and the body, wings, and feet of a bird, and, instead of a lower lip, it has a long bill. Its date is inscribed down the front—8.6.4.2.17 of the Maya Era, equivalent to 98 B. C.

Our next dated object is a small jadeite plaque known as the Leyden Plate, now in

the museum at Leyden, Holland, which bears a date nearly 160 years later—8.14.3.12 of the Maya Era, or 61 A. D. And seven years later—8.14.10.13.15 of the Maya Era, or 68 A. D.—we reach the oldest large stone monument, Stela 9 at the city of Uaxactun, which, judging from the early dates of its different monuments, is the oldest center of the Maya civilization, at least the oldest now known so far as the dated monuments are concerned.

As early as the beginning of the Christian Era, then, we find this great aboriginal civilization well

under way, settling into that notable forward stride which was to make of it the most brilliant cultural achievement of ancient America.

In many spheres of human activity these Greeks of the New World excelled, almost beyond believing, in architecture, sculpture, and painting; in ceramics, stone and feather mosaics, and the lapidary art; in astronomy, history, and chronology; indeed, in this last-mentioned field their attainments were so



THE LEANING MONOLITH OF QUIRIGUA, GUATEMALA

The dates carved in Maya hieroglyphics upon monuments such as this have enabled modern archaeologists to trace the rise and fall of the Maya civilization

remarkable that we may fairly claim that no people of the Old World at this time—less than twenty centuries ago—had worked out a system of chronology anywhere approaching that of the Maya, not only in accuracy of results but also in simplicity of use. And all this spectacular progress, we must bear constantly in mind, since it makes their achievement all the more amazing, the Maya accomplished without man's two greatest aids to civilization in the Old World—namely, beasts of burden and tools of metal. Indeed, when these two factors are taken into consideration, when we stop to reflect just what it really means to have no beasts of burden, no horses, asses, oxen, camels, or elephants to carry, nor tools of iron, bronze, copper, or tin to cut and hew and carve with, we may perhaps venture the assertion that, judged by what they had, they achieved more splendidly than any other people the world has ever known.

In appearance the modern Maya—for some three million of them still live in the region formerly occupied by their ancestors—

are a golden brown in color, rather than red; they have straight black hair; brown eyes at times obliquely placed, betraying their probable place of origin as somewhere in eastern Asia; small hands and feet; and are below the average stature, the women noticeably so.

Their garments were simple: for the men cotton breech clouts, and for the women sleeveless slips of the same material em-

broidered at the neck and around the bottom with tasteful designs in cross-stitch. Both sexes wore leather sandals with thongs of fiber or perhaps more often went barefoot. The rulers and priests, we know from the sculptures on the monuments, had much more elaborate regalia: cloaks and mantles of brilliantly hued feathers; capes of tawny jaguar skins; collars, corselets, wristlets,

anklets, earrings, and pendants of jade; towering headdresses of wood, inlaid with jade, turquoise, coral, and mother-of-pearl, and surmounted by sweeping plumes, presenting a dazzling picture of barbaric splendor.

Their cities are still a marvel of beauty and majesty to us of another age. The temples of their gods, lofty pyramids of cut stone surmounted by elaborately sculptured sanctuaries, towering high above everything else, constant and eloquent reminders of the faith of their forefathers, are arranged around great courts and plazas paved with a hard lime concrete and filled with elaborately carved monuments.

Near by are lower buildings covering, as a rule, more ground, built upon lower platforms and terraces, the residences of the ruler, priests, and nobles. These are also of cut stone and are arranged not along streets or avenues as in modern cities but around the sides of smaller courts and plazas. Drains leading through the terraces under these buildings carry off the water which falls so heavily



THE OLDEST DATED MAYA OBJECT

The Tuxtla Statuette in the National Museum in Washington, D. C., bears a Maya date equivalent to 98 B. C.



during the rainy season, May to January. The entrances are usually to be found at the corners or through arcades in the buildings themselves. The humbler folk lived in thatched huts surrounding the habitations of the great, which stretched away from the center for a long distance.

Perhaps the most notable achievement of the ancient Maya was the development of a graphic system, a hieroglyphic writing. It has been held that this invention is the truest index of cultural attainment; that the ability to express ideas and thoughts by written symbols so that they may be read by others is the best measure of any civilization.

The Maya originated the only system of writing in the New World worthy of the name. Compared with it the *quipu*, or knotted colored strings, of the ancient Incas, their only attempt at keeping records, is only the crudest sort of a memory aid, something like a rosary, a counter to remember by.

The Maya writing stands at the threshold of phonetic composition; that is, their curious symbols and characters were just on the verge of changing from *ideograms*, or the signs which stand for *ideas*, to *phonograms*, or signs which stand for *sounds*, like the letters of our own alphabet. In spite of the fact that the oldest example, the Tuxtla Statuette, is less than half as old as the earliest cuneiform inscriptions, which go back to the fifth

millennium before Christ, nevertheless the Maya hieroglyphic writing represents the earliest stage in the development of a graphic system, sufficiently formalized to be identified as such, known anywhere in the world.

Already, in the earliest examples of the cuneiform writing, at least half of the signs have become phonetic in character; that is, they have ceased being pictures, representations of ideas, and stand for sounds purely and simply. In the Maya writing this later stage was just beginning to show itself.

But one asks what did the Maya do with their wonderful invention? What sort of records did they leave behind them carved on the walls, cornices, and stairways of their temples, graven upon the sides of their monuments, or painted in their fiber books or codices? And the answer to this question is perhaps the strangest part of their whole strange story. These records, it has been found, contain astronomical and chronological data of a most exact nature. It is very greatly to be doubted whether Egyptian and Babylonian astronomical lore exceeded that of the Maya, but, even granting that it did, when it comes to the field of chronology, to keeping track of elapsed time, there is no doubt but that the Maya had developed one of the finest systems of counting time that the world has ever produced, certainly far better than anything the Old World knew



MAYA ✱  
CARVINGS

For centuries this block of stone carved by ancient Maya sculptors was covered by the Guatemala jungle. It came to light when a large company wiped out the jungle to plant bananas. Two thousand years of tropical rains and winds and sun did no damage to these ancient carvings



MAYA MONOLITH AT QUIRIGUA, GUATEMALA

With inscriptions carved over two thousand years ago

down to within the last four hundred years.

They had two ways of writing their numbers just as we have: one, which we may liken to our Roman notation, by means of bars and dots, wherein the dot equals 1 and the bar 5, these two elements being added together to form the numbers up to 19; and the other, which may be compared to our Arabic notation, wherein different types of the human head stood for the numbers from 0 to 13 inclusive, and combinations of the head for 10, with the heads for 4 to 9 inclusive, gave the heads for 14 to 19 respectively.

By means of this system of numbers, and hieroglyphics standing for their days, months, and higher time periods, the Maya measured and recorded events and time with a degree of accuracy never equaled by any other people of antiquity anywhere else in the world. So extraordinarily accurate indeed was their method of recording any given day that it could not recur fulfilling all the necessary conditions until after a lapse of 274,400 years, a truly stupendous achievement for any chronological system, ancient or modern.

Enough has been said to justify the title chosen for this sketch telling who the Maya were and what they did. And now a few words as to their end: During the fifth to seventh centuries the Maya moved out of the Old Empire region in two different directions, part going southward into the highlands of southern Guatemala and part northward into the arid plains of Yucatan. In both these regions under the stimulus of a new environment their culture blossomed forth anew; in a sense they

seem to have enjoyed a renaissance, but the old fire, the inspired will to do, was lacking. Civil wars, pestilences, and famines in turn so devastated the land that by the time the Spanish arrived in the early part of the sixteenth century these once proud and powerful people were so weakened as to fall an easy prey to the foreign invaders.

Thus in the fullness of its centuries the Maya culture came at length to naught, eclipsed by the rising fortunes of an alien race, overwhelmed by a civilization that was superior, the fittest, as always, relentlessly surviving—"sic transit gloria mundi."





## HERMIT TRIBE ❖

*The San Blas Indians  
of Panama*

BY J. M. CREIGHTON

They live in a sheltered archipelago—a group of islands down where Panama joins Colombia, in the Atlantic. The islands are tiny and round and many in number. Their inhabitants are tiny and brown and few. There are perhaps 20,000 in all, half giving a languid fealty to Panama, the others to their sister republic and mother to the south. Ages ago these people, seeking safety, withdrew from their brothers of the mainland and went to the islands in the sea and their environment there has colored their character and given peculiar distortions to their physiques.

The largest of the men are about five feet two and the average about five feet. The women are much smaller; a few inches on either side of four feet six would include them all. But their heads are enormous, fully half as large again as those of Anglo-Saxons. The legs are negligible. They are bred in their boats—travel, hunt, fish, and live in them. Ergo: their legs are of no consequence, and generations of non-employment have shrunk them. They paddle constantly, and so their arms and chests are powerful.

They are racially one of the purest tribes in the world. There is no strain among them, of the Spaniard or the black or the white. Traders are permitted to visit the islands during the daytime. When night comes

down, however, every alien must go back to his ship, and during the day when strangers are ashore the Indian women keep to their bamboo houses, that the eyes of the foreigner may not rest upon them. The women are forbidden, under pain of death, to leave the islands. The men occasionally sail their "cayucas," or dugout canoes, to Colon to trade and an adventurous few sometimes get on the ships—but the women stay at home.

The Indians' "negas," or houses, are built of bamboo, supported by a framework of heavier timber, and heavily thatched with palm leaves. They are large and cool. The sleeping is done in grass hammocks slung from the frames of their houses.

Their religion is nothing. They do not worship gods or idols, nor the sun or moon, but they recognize some mystical, intangible, and unseen being and raise their eyes aloft in supplication. Their language is a thing of great simplicity. It has no genders or tenses; there is no possessive and there are no pronouns. It is "Mary go last week" or "Thomas go next week."

Nature is bountiful to them. Coconuts form their complete legal tender and a chief article of food. In addition they have yams and yucca and bananas and fish.

Happy Indians! No enemies! Food falls into their laps and the fish leap in the shoals! Nature is sweet and the sea and sky smile!—but commercialism is at their portals, and a few years more will probably see the fruitful islands of these amiable tribesmen exploited for the profit of others.



Courtesy the author

A SAN BLAS  
BOATMAN ❖

In his *cayuca*, or dugout canoe. For centuries these Indians have lived in boats, with the result that the present generation have huge arms and shoulders while their legs are small and thin



## UNTING THE HOOKWORM

*Central America's*

*Progress Toward Health*

BY VICTOR G. HEISER, M. D.

Member of the International Health Board of the  
Rockefeller Foundation

The hookworm was brought to the Western Hemisphere by the slave traffic and it was introduced into Central America by the Negroes and those whom they had infected. It spread rapidly among the Indian and other populations and it may be safely stated that over half of the people in each of the countries of this area became victims of hookworm infection.

The good health maintained by those who were employed in the building of the Panama Canal created a desire on the part of the intelligent classes of Central America for the betterment of conditions among their people. After the success of the campaigns against hookworm in Porto Rico, and later in our own Southern States, it became apparent that similar methods applied in Central America might not only greatly relieve sufferers from hookworm disease, but might also free the population of other diseases which had enslaved them. Accordingly departments were organized in the various countries for the treatment of hookworm patients and the control of soil pollution.

Modern science has much to offer to residents of the tropics. Yellow fever can be controlled. Malaria can be checked. Dysentery, which has laid whole towns and villages prostrate, and typhoid fever, which has taken its annual toll by the thousands, can be arrested. All this has become operative through the agency of the modern public health officer.

Throughout Central America, following closely upon the control of the hookworm disease, there has occurred an awakening interest in better health service. This has found concrete expression in the establish-

ment of health organizations to deal with preventable diseases of mankind.

In Costa Rica modern health service has been organized. Medical inspections of school children are made. People are systematically vaccinated against smallpox. Improvement in water supplies has been brought about. Gradually a safe method for the disposal of human waste is coming into being. The department of health in Salvador has its own specially constructed building and modern

laboratory service has been provided.

The progress of Honduras has been interrupted by revolutions, but as funds are again available work can be readily resumed.

Nicaragua has made the greatest advance of all Central American countries in the safe disposal of refuse. Its laboratories for diagnosis are excellent. Diagnosis of diphtheria or typhoid fever can be made as promptly and efficiently in Managua as in New York City.

The question is frequently asked, "What



Courtesy Rockefeller Foundation

### FIGHTING YELLOW FEVER

General Lyster of the Rockefeller Foundation giving yellow-fever vaccine to natives at Los Amates, Guatemala



are hookworms?" Hookworms are small worms about one-half inch long and of about the thickness of a coarse thread; in fact, they look like short pieces of thread. They are incapable of reproducing themselves in the human body. They do, however, lay eggs which are discharged with the intestinal contents and when these eggs fall upon moist, shady, warm ground they soon develop into small larvæ. When these come in contact with the bare skin they attach themselves to it. Persons who go barefooted are likely to contract the disease.

Once the larvæ have attached themselves to the skin they soon penetrate it and find their way into the lymphatics, whence they are carried to the heart. From the heart they pass into the lungs. There they penetrate the little air sacs and are breathed up into the throat and then swallowed. Finally they find their way into the small intestine, where they lodge themselves by means of hooks in their mouths, hence the name "hookworm." One person may harbor as many as ten thousand hookworms. These parasites feed by sucking blood from the intestine, thus impoverishing their victim and gradually producing anæmia.

Anæmia means a blood of poor quality. Impoverished blood means reduced resistance. Its possessor is much more likely to be a prey for any infectious disease than is his non-anæmic neighbor.

There are two methods by which man may be protected against the hookworm. One is through proper drainage. Where a modern sewer system is established hookworm disease will soon disappear. The other method consists in removing the hookworm from the human body by means of medicine. Experience has demonstrated that neither method alone works as well as a combination of the two.

For the purposes of a hookworm campaign a country is divided into definite zones. Lantern-slide lectures are given showing the parasite and its eggs under the microscope. The newspapers publish popular articles; leaflets in the local dialects are distributed, while instruction given to the school children is widely disseminated by them.

When curative work and measures for the prevention of soil pollution have been completed in an area, not only is the hookworm checked but other intestinal diseases are controlled as well. The health crusade brings into the lives of all the people the knowledge of how modern health work secures well-being and happiness. Thus there is created a public opinion that is favorable to the support of the government's health department.

The peoples of Central America are supporting health departments that are becoming capable of controlling communicable diseases. With these forces in operation Central America gives assurances of health protection for the future.



Courtesy Rockefeller Foundation

## ENFORCED SANITATION

Officer of the municipality of Aliquizanya, Salvador, reading a decree for the compulsory construction of a sewage system



# MORGAN'S LAST RAID

BY CHARLES L. GOOD

Of all the notorious pirates that infested the waters of the Caribbean, Captain Henry Morgan was the worst—and last. He had grown rich and famous in the course of years of rapacious adventure, in which he had shown himself a master sea fighter and a brutal, blood-thirsty leader of buccaneers.

After a succession of spectacular successes, culminating in the capture and looting of Maracaibo of half a million in spoils, he planned, as a crowning exploit of his career, an attack on Panama.

Old Panama had long been famous as the richest city in New Spain. All the immense wealth in gold, silver, and precious stones that was wrested from the mines of the Aztecs and the Incas, as well as the enormous output of the Panamanian mines, was concentrated at Panama for transshipment across the isthmus. At the Pacific end of the famous old Gold Road, it was literally the treasure house of the world.

In preparation for this campaign Morgan had gathered a force of two thousand fighting fiends and a fleet of thirty-seven vessels; the largest and most formidable force under one leader in the annals of piracy. His next move was to capture the fortress of San Lorenzo at the mouth of the Chagres River, which guarded the Atlantic end of the Gold Road. This was accomplished after a stub-

born fight, and Morgan then established his base of operations at San Lorenzo and completed his preparations.

Leaving five hundred men to garrison the fortress and an additional one hundred and fifty on the ships, Morgan set out for Panama on August 18, 1670, with twelve hundred desperate pirates. It was a journey of unbelievable hardships and sufferings. The buccaneers had expected to live off the land, and had taken but few provisions. But the Spaniards had been warned of their

coming and had stripped the country as bare as an old bone. Day after day that motley crowd of cut-throats struggled doggedly on through the jungle, continually harassed by Indian allies of the Spaniards, and cursing and raving as they came upon each successive deserted camp and village or charred and blackened field. On the fourth day their condition was such that they gnawed their leather wallets. Finally, after subsisting for nine days on stray dogs and cats or half-burned corn, they reached a vale where a herd of horses, don-

keys, and a few cattle were grazing. The hunger-crazed pirates promptly slaughtered them and devoured the half-cooked carcasses ravenously. Heartened by their first meal in over a week, they resumed their march, and that night they camped within sight of the city of Panama.

The following morning Morgan formed his forces, and with trumpets blowing and drums beating the buccaneers marched to the attack. The Spaniards had marshaled approximately three thousand men to the defense of the town, outnumbering the



A RELIC OF OLD PANAMA

Ruins of the cathedral, once considered the finest building of its kind in the New World



pirates almost three to one. The battle opened on the plains before the city, and for five hours continued with unabated fury. Quarter was neither asked nor given on either side, and the Spaniards, many of whom had wives and daughters, fought with the courage born of desperation. But the gods of war were against the arms of Spain that day, for by clever maneuvering Morgan broke through the desperate defense and put the dons to route.

The pirates then poured into the city like a pack of wild beasts. Crazy with fighting, drunk with the lust of blood, they ran amuck through the streets, shooting, looting, and destroying. In a short time a number of captives and quantities of treasure were delivered over to Morgan.

The majority of the population had fled before the pirates had reached the city, taking with them everything of value they could carry, so the plunder found in the city was not all that they had expected. Morgan's rage knew no bounds, and out of sheer, wanton vindictiveness, he ordered the city to be put to the torch. Most of the structures were of wood and burned like tinder. In a few hours Panama was virtually wiped out.

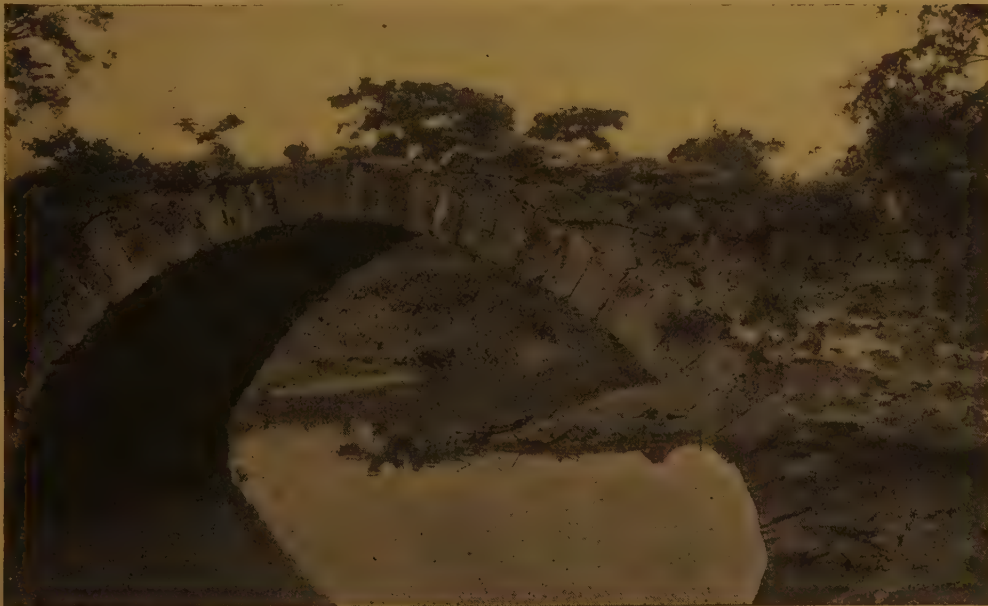
Morgan now dispatched bodies of troops into the surrounding country to round up the refugees and attempt to locate the wealth

with which they had fled. The pirates returned with several hundred prisoners and a large quantity of gold and silver. Any fugitive who showed the least semblance of prosperity was forced to divulge the hiding place of his wealth under threat of death by torture.

Age, sex, or position counted for nothing. Women and children as well as the men were tortured and murdered, although some of obviously high position or great wealth were put aside and held for ransom.

Finally, on February 24, 1671, having scraped the city bare and laid waste the surrounding country, Morgan left Panama. The loot, consisting of gold, silver, precious stones, silks, satins, and brocades, was loaded on one hundred and seventy-five mules; six hundred prisoners were taken along also.

On March 9th the buccaneers reached San Lorenzo. Complaints immediately arose over the division of the spoils, so Morgan cold-bloodedly "double-crossed" his men by taking as much as he could get, and all the available provisions, and sailing away aboard his own ship. Thus he ended his pirate career with a crowning exploit of villainy. How ironical that this same Morgan the buccaneer should later be knighted by his king and sent back to Jamaica to betray, judge, and hang his own men! Possibly his king believed that it took a pirate to catch a pirate.



© Ewing Galloway

## BRIDGE ON THE OLD PANAMA GOLD TRAIL

Across this old bridge the Spaniards, for years, carried their precious booty from the mines of Central America and Peru; and over these very stones the pirate Henry Morgan marched his ruthless band when he raided Panama



## OUR LATIN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS

BY HENRY LANE WILSON

Extending from the Rio Grande to the furthestmost point of Cape Horn and including in its sweep the West Indies and the islands of the Pacific, Latin America contains a total area of 10,350,000 square miles. This vast stretch of territory is traversed by great rivers, draining and enriching the encircling valleys, and crowned by chains of mountains.

Within this area are found all climates, unlimited agricultural and mineral resources, and arboreal supplies sufficient to meet the world's needs. Chile produces nitrates, copper, and wine; the Argentine Republic, cattle, wheat and sugar; Brazil, coffee, sugar, medicinal plants, and lumber; Peru, sugar, copper, gold and cattle; Ecuador, lumber, copper, and tropical fruits; Colombia, silver, gold, copper, and oil; Venezuela, coffee, sugar, oil, and lumber, Costa Rica, coffee, sugar, and tropical fruits; Guatemala, cattle, tropical fruits, coffee, and sugar; Salvador, coffee, sugar, and tropical fruits; Honduras, cattle, sugar, and rich woods; Nicaragua, cattle, sugar, coffee, and minerals; Mexico, coffee, sugar, tobacco, cattle, and the precious metals.

In all Latin America there is a population of not more than 100,000,000 people, differing in origin but with identic speech implanted by European pioneers; only in Chile and the Argentine Republic do composite types exist.

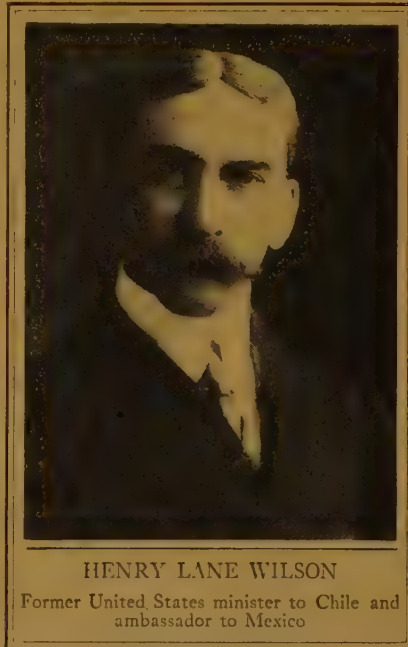
Here is a sparse population scattered over a vast area which, at the present time, is carrying on a considerable trade with the world and with which commercial exchanges are growing by leaps and bounds; an area capable of sustaining ten times its present population and of multiplying its trade with the world, by the adoption and development of modern methods, more than twenty fold, while, at the same time, almost every

European country is suffering from the press of population, the menace of unemployment, and the difficult problem of trade routes and outlets. Under these circumstances it is easy to foresee Latin America populated by a billion souls, immigrants from Europe and their descendants, escaping from European conditions.

The plain inference from this simple statement is that the most able and intelligent diplomacy and the most liberal commercial expansion should be directed to the countries of Latin America. All the aids and encouragement possible for the procurement of healthy and growing trade relations should be given to them.

A sympathetic understanding of racial psychology aids materially in the maintenance of amicable relations with all peoples. It would be an error to measure the Chilean or the Argentine, with traditions inherited from the Guadalupe or the slopes of the Pyrenees, by the austere standards of Puritan morals, or a Mexican or a Brazilian by the inelastic codes of a twentieth-century philosophy. Of whatever origin he may be, the Latin American has his prejudices, traditions, habits of thought and living, and to these he stubbornly adheres in spite of the changing modes of life and thought created by inventive genius and the tremendous stride of Anglo-

Saxon energy. The Anglo-Saxon world moves with rapid steps, the Latin American moves slowly into new fields; the Anglo-Saxon reaches out for everything that is new, the Latin American instinctively clings tenaciously to the old; the one exhausts his energies in ceaseless mental and physical strife, the other maintains his primitive vigor by adhering to ancient faiths and legends. The Anglo-Saxon may not hope, should not wish, to take from the Latin American the world in which he and his forefathers have lived. He should rather try to understand and assimilate enough of the Latin American ideas to make a sound basis for cordial and lasting diplomatic and commercial relations.



HENRY LANE WILSON

Former United States minister to Chile and ambassador to Mexico





# THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

*The Wandering Jew of the Sea*

BY H. B. BESTON

At the Cape of Good Hope the mountains come down to the sea, and mists as white as wilderness snow float through the brilliant air and gather on their heads. If it were night and you were in the fo'castle of an old ship rounding the mountains under a cloud of straining sail, this is the yarn you would hear of the Flying Dutchman—legendary hero of a tale that has inspired more ballads, romances, and dramas than all other stories of the sea combined.

Once there was a Dutchman, hundreds of years ago they say, sailing homeward, bound from Batavia to Amsterdam. This Vanderdecken—a hard driver he was—sailed to the southward of the cape, and ran bow on into one of the wild nor'westers you get in those seas. And he kept trying to round the cape, and the fierce nor'wester kept driving him back, blowing the spray over him; yet this roaring Dutchman wouldn't put into Table Bay, but stood it out by trying to thrash into the wind. One day, just as the light was fading, and heavy weather closing in, the Dutchman became so maddened by the head wind that he cursed and shook his fist at the sky and swore he'd round the cape if he had to keep going till Judgment Day. Then came a fierce flash of lightning and a crash of thunder.

And ever since that night the "Flying Dutchman" has been trying to round the cape in the teeth of a ghost wind that ever heads his ship. Night and day, round and about, he and his spectral crew cruise these seas. And with them comes the hurricane.

Such is the immortal legend told with national variations in every maritime country of the world. In its primitive form, the Vanderdecken legend is a sailors' myth; a thing pagan and remorseless, it symbolizes the endless contest between man and "the rude, imperious surge." The Flying Dutchman of whom Scott sings in *Rokeby*, the harassed phantom of the eighteenth-century sailor ballads, and Fenimore Cooper's "Red Rover" is this sailor's Dutchman—the doomed blasphemer of "Nature and Nature's God," the Wandering Jew of the Sea.

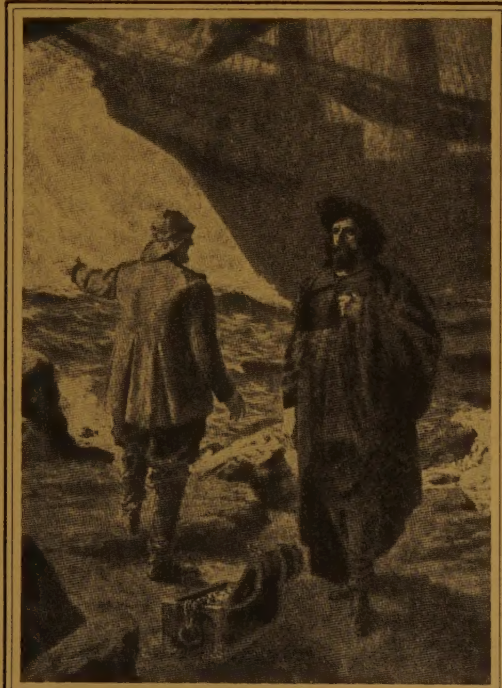
The change in the legend comes with the nineteenth century, for the tale then goes ashore, and wanders off into the hands of landmen. Eternal dooms and curses not being to the taste of the time, Vanderdecken is presently provided with a savior.

The first of the new Vanderdeckens is found in Edward Fitz Ball's "The Flying Dutchman," produced a century ago. In Marryat's penny dreadful, "The Phantom Ship," the rescuer is Vanderdecken's own son, a devoted and courageous lad.

Credit for the introduction of a woman as the ransoming power is generally given to Heine, though he said he derived the

idea from an unknown play he chanced to see in Amsterdam. The essential plot of the new romance, the ransoming of Vanderdecken by a maiden who braves the curse and remains faithful unto death, has given us Wagner's familiar opera and Sir Henry Irving's spectacular drama, "Vanderdecken," and other dramatic versions of the tale.

It is only in poetry and play, however, that the Flying Dutchman is saved from his fate. The Vanderdecken that the sailor knows is the old, haunted blasphemer ever fighting to round the cape—fighting till Judgment Day.



VANDERDECKEN—THE FLYING DUTCHMAN





### THE EARTH'S GIRDLE OF CIVILIZATION

The zone in which the mean annual temperatures lie between 45° and 65° Fahrenheit contains the finest civilizations of the world—both ancient and modern. The bordering zones (stippled) with mean annual temperatures between 40° and 45° and 65° and 70° are also zones of high cultural development. The zone of highest civilization in the Southern Hemisphere (40° to 70°) embraces areas of *transplanted* Aryan culture. The only culture of note in this zone is that of the ancient Peruvians



## LIMATE AND CIVILIZATION

BY CLEMENT KING

Human races, like fruit trees, develop best in regions climatically suited to their needs of growth.

Our map shows various isotherms (lines of equal temperature) of mean yearly temperatures over the earth. Virtually all of the best of the civilizations of the Northern Hemisphere, together with the rapidly developing cultures of the Southern Hemisphere, are confined between the isotherms of 40° and 70° Fahrenheit. This zone embraces the major portion of the United States and virtually all of Europe. The Southern Hemisphere zone of civilization is largely a zone of *secondary* cultural development or cultural transplantation. Within the northern zone are included not only our modern areas of highest cultural development but also those regions wherein the great cultures of the past arose and flourished: the cultures of Mycenæ, of Phœnicia, Babylonia, Assyria, Greece, Rome, and of Kublai Khan.

The 45° to 65° isotherms mark out a belt

which includes a zone wherein the products of civilization have reached the very apex of their development. The width of this belt averages not much more than six hundred miles—and yet most of the great cities of the world are within its confines, as well as the great universities and other cultural institutions. Within this zone has arisen the great ideal movements in the history of thought. Christianity, though not born within this zone, spread and waxed vigorous only when transplanted within its borders, while it declined in the land of its origin!

In the Southern Hemisphere the only notable native culture in past times within the zone of civilization was the civilization of the Peruvians. The modern areas of culture in Africa, South America, Australia, and New Zealand are areas of *transplanted* Aryan cultures.

Within the zones mentioned, it appears, then, that the conditions of climate most favorable for the development of what we call the highest civilizations are, chiefly: (1) a range of temperatures embracing the most invigorating extremes, and (2) a climate affording the greatest seasonal varieties for the development of agriculture and the arts dependent upon settled abode, with which intercourse among peoples, commerce, and civilization go hand in hand.





## Men who "know it all" are not invited to read this page

**THIS** page is not for the wise young man who is perfectly satisfied with himself and his business equipment, who believes that the only reason he is not paid twice as much is that he has never been "given a chance."

This page is a personal message to the man who has responsibilities, who feels secretly that he ought to be earning several thousand dollars more a year, but who simply lacks the confidence necessary to lay hold on one of the bigger places in business. We should like to put into the hands of every such man a copy of a little book that contains the seeds of self-confidence. It is called "Forging Ahead in Business" and it is sent without obligation.

We have in mind, for example, a certain man who is now auditor of a great corporation in the Middle West. Until he was thirty-one years of age he was a bookkeeper. His employers had made up their minds that he would always be a bookkeeper. His wife was beginning secretly to wonder. Worst of all, he himself was beginning to lose faith.

He investigated the Alexander Hamilton Institute; without any great hope in its results, he enrolled in the Modern Business Course and Service. The first few months of his association with the Institute were a revelation to him. He found himself being initiated into departments of business that had hitherto been a mystery to him. He was learning the fundamentals of purchasing, of merchandising, of advertising, of office and factory management, and corporation finance.

He began quietly to make suggestions to the officials—suggestions that surprised them, because they had ceased to expect anything from him. They revised their estimate of his capacities; when the position of auditor became vacant, he was given his chance. And recently, on an important financial problem, he argued against the position of the company's own attorneys—basing his argument on principles which the Institute had taught—and by proving his point succeeded in saving the company \$60,000.

The self-confidence which the Institute gave him has transformed that man. He will be a vice-presi-

dent of that great corporation; and at 31 he was condemned to be a bookkeeper for life.

For the man who is perfectly content with himself and his job the Alexander Hamilton Institute can do nothing. But there are thousands of men who could double their incomes in one year if they believed in themselves and had the solid business knowledge to back up their belief.

To such men the Institute offers "Forging Ahead in Business"—a book with power in every page, and which also describes clearly and interestingly what the Alexander Hamilton Institute can do for you. Thousands of successful men regard it as one of the most valuable little books they ever sent for. May we send it to you? The coupon is for your convenience.

## Alexander Hamilton Institute



In Australia: 11c Castlereagh St., Sydney

In Canada: C. P. R. Building, Toronto

### Alexander Hamilton Institute 241 Astor Place, New York City

Send me the book, "Forging Ahead in Business," which I may keep without obligation.

Name.....  
Please write plainly

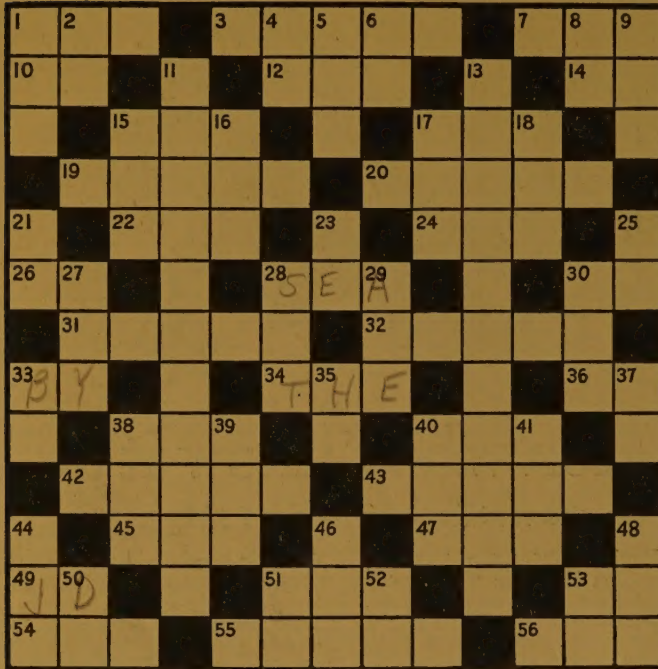
Business Address.....

Business Position.....



# DO YOU KNOW THESE BOOKS AND AUTHORS?

A BOOK AND AUTHOR CROSS-WORD PUZZLE\*  
MADE SPECIALLY FOR THE MENTOR  
BY CAROLYN WELLS



## ACROSS

1. Creator of elfin characters popular with children.
3. A brilliant writer on Japan, who was born on a Greek island and spent much of his life in America.
7. Chief word in the title of a novel by Frank Norris.
10. First name of pseudonym used by a Connecticut author who wrote essays of sentiment.
12. The initials of a prolific American novelist, who was also a famous magazine editor.
14. Initials of a traveler and journalist who has written about the South Seas.
15. Nickname of Hawthorne.
17. Initials of a novelist who wrote a widely read "make-believe" story.
19. A titled English poet.
20. Name of a young American journalist who wrote a realistic novel about war.
22. Initials of an American short-story writer who also wrote essays and verse of a high order.
24. Last word in the title of a series of poems by Longfellow.
26. The first word of the title of one of Shakespeare's plays.
28. The background of many novels by Joseph Conrad.
30. Initials of a book title by George Eliot.
31. A biographer of Mark Twain.
32. A name that reminds one of rabbit and pan.
33. A word that usually appears on a title page.
34. An article much used by writers.
36. Initials of a well-known woman author and editor who has made a specialty of biography.
38. Goose's contribution to literature.
40. Initials of an American clergyman, author of a very popular book fifty years ago, in which was a vivid description of the Chicago fire.
42. First name of a Canadian-American author who writes best sellers and books on religion.
43. Heroine of a popular series of American juveniles published fifty years ago.

45. Initials of a New England poet and editor who translated Greek classics.
47. Hero of "Great Expectations."
49. Initials of a character created by Tennyson. His name has been given to a state law.
51. The brother of Amelia in "Vanity Fair."
53. Initials of the author of the "Rollo Books."
54. Name of a child in "Timothy's Quest."
55. Character in "Uncle Tom's Cabin."
56. Name of a baby in the "Uncle Remus" stories.

## DOWN

1. A poem named for the national hero of Spain.
2. Initials of an Oriental poet and astronomer born at Nishapur, in Khorassan.
4. Initials of the author of "David Harum."
5. An Indiana humorist.
6. Initials of the author of "Bella Donna."
8. Title of a much-quoted poem by Kipling.
9. Name of one of Mark Twain's heroes.
11. Name of an Italian lady given to a novel by an American author who was born in Italy and died there.
13. A famous first poem by a noted American.
15. An American humorist whose first name began with B.
16. First word of two book titles, one by Seumas MacManus and the other by E. M. Dell.
17. Hero of a book by Joseph C. Lincoln.
18. Woman's name in a two-word title of a novel by H. G. Wells.
21. Initials of a distinguished American whose education is celebrated.
23. First word in the name of a well-known poem by Wordsworth.
25. A great help to book sales.
27. Principal word in the title of one of James Fenimore Cooper's novels.
28. A complete collection of books by one author.
29. A jungle hero of some recent stories.
30. The first word of the title of one of Irving Bacheller's stories.
33. Initials of a forest featured in "Macbeth."
35. Pseudonym of the author of an extremely popular story laid in California which has been called the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" of the Indians.
37. Initials of a statesman, author, and explorer celebrated as a phrase maker.
38. One of four moving things in "Bob, Son of Battle."
39. An important point in ancient and modern writings.
40. Initials of a biographer of President Roosevelt and author of a recent book about murder.
41. Name of one of the most beloved characters in American fiction and drama.
44. One of the "Little Women."
46. Part of the name of a dwarf celebrated in a Grimm Fairy Tale.
48. First word of a book title by Tolstoy.
50. Initials of a girl whose name is the title of a prize story by Booth Tarkington.
51. Another one of the "Little Women."
52. Initials of an English clergyman born in the eighteenth century who was a wit and essayist.
53. Initials of an American woman who has written many books on social reform and settlement work.

\*Answer will appear in March issue of The Mentor.